



TAT-02-F-05398

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
TIDEWATER BALING SITE  
CITY OF NEWARK, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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I. SITE BACKGROUND

The Tidewater Baling site is located in the City of Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. The site is at St. Charles and Rome Streets in the Ironbound section of Newark. Roughly 15 acres in size, the site encompasses the Ironbound Recreational Center and a low-lying marsh area bordered in an urban industrial neighborhood inhabited by several thousand people.

The recreational center, built in 1968, is situated on property formerly owned by the Celanese Corporation. Celanese donated the land to the City of Newark to be developed for recreational use. It is suspected that many of the materials from the former facility, including hazardous chemicals, were buried on-site. Evidence was found when the city unearthed buried drums during excavation for a swimming pool in the southeast corner of the site.

The low-lying marsh area at the northern end of the recreational center has been an area of concern for several years. During times of heavy rain, uncontrolled runoff from the Tidewater Baling and Conrail properties enters the marsh area. As a result, the marsh area has become contaminated with PCBs and heavy metals which can be linked to Tidewater Baling and possibly Conrail. Inspections by NJDEP have determined that drums and transformers were among the materials being baled at Tidewater. In response to an NJDEP directive to remedy the facility's drainage problems, the facility owners have done little more than dig unlined collection pits and place sorbent pads along the flow path of the runoff. Consequently, the marsh area continues to receive contaminated runoff from the Tidewater Baling facility.

Despite previous efforts by NJDEP and the City of Newark to secure the marsh area with fencing and PCB warning signs, neighborhood residents have continuously used the area as a "short-cut" between the residential and industrial sections of Ironbound. The fencing has been torn down in several sections, and only a few warning signs remain.

The Tidewater Baling site was submitted by NJDEP to EPA for CERCLA Removal Action consideration on February 2, 1989. During a preliminary assessment by TAT in May, 1989, Tidewater Baling's poor housekeeping practices were confirmed by the widespread evidence of oil-contaminated soil. Soil, aqueous, and oil samples were taken from both Tidewater's property and the marsh area, and analysis of these samples revealed the presence of Aroclor 1248 and 1254, and heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and lead.

## II. COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### A. Community Profile

The Ironbound section of Newark is a mixed industrial and residential neighborhood. The recreation facility was once quite popular and frequently used before being shut down.

### B. Chronology of Community Involvement at the Tidewater Baling Site

The Tidewater Baling facility was investigated by NJDEP in response to a complaint by the city of Newark in August, 1986. The city claimed that oil from the baling facility was leaking onto city property. NJDEP's investigation revealed that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were present in the oil leaking onto the recreation facility. As a result of this contamination, the football and soccer fields were closed.

The public did not become involved until drums were found while excavating for a swimming pool approximately 300 yards from the baling facility. Samples analyzed from these drums indicated the presence of phenol and trimethylphenol. At this time, pool construction was halted. Since there was neither a soccer/football field nor a swimming pool for public use at the recreation facility, residents became concerned. A local citizens group, the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, protested the city of Newark for the mishandling of the recreational facility.

## III. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN AT THE TIDEWATER BALING SITE

In order to develop an effective and responsive community relations program which is specific to the Tidewater Baling site, opinions, expectations, and concerns of residents and local officials have been solicited. This community relations program will focus on providing residents and local officials with accurate and timely information pertaining to findings and developments at the site, and ensuring effective coordination of information with local elected officials. The objectives of this community relations program are discussed in detail below.

### Provide Status Reports of EPA Clean-up Activities

EPA will provide local officials, business and community leaders with accurate, and easily understandable status updates of clean-up activities. Status updates of EPA's clean-up activities will communicate to the community a clear picture of

measures being taken to ensure public health and safety. Providing community members with periodic updates of safety measures will help communicate to them that EPA is actively seeking to clean-up the site and implement safety measures.

#### Prepare and Distribute Updates On Site Safety Measures

Purpose: To inform residents about site safety measures.

Technique: Updates will be prepared and distributed by EPA and provided to interested public officials, business leaders, community leaders, and area residents. A special effort should be made to distribute updates to citizens and community officials. Updates will stress clean-up efforts and safety measures taken by EPA at the Tidewater Baling site.

#### Prepare and Distribute Press Releases Regarding Site Activities

Purpose: To inform residents about the Superfund clean-up process and site activities and safety measures implemented during the clean-up.

Technique: Press releases will be prepared and distributed to local media. Press releases will be sent as EPA reaches site clean-up milestones and implements safety measures.

#### Establish and Maintain a Central EPA Community Relations Contact Person

Purpose: To ensure that timely, understandable, and consistent responses are provided to questions raised by local officials, community leaders, business leaders, residents, and media representatives, concerning the site.

Technique: EPA community relations staff person will be designated to respond directly to public inquiries regarding site activities. In contacts with media personnel, the EPA contact person will coordinate with local officials. This EPA contact person will also monitor community concerns and activities during the removal action and make any necessary changes in community relations activities.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF KEY CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

	Phone #
A. Federal Elected Officials	
Senator Bill Bradley <u>Washington, DC Office</u> Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510-3202	(202) 224-3224
<u>District Office</u> Box 1720 Union, New Jersey 07083	(201) 688-0960
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg <u>Washington, DC Office</u> Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510-3201	(202) 224-4744
<u>District Office</u> 970 Broad Street Newark, New Jersey 07102	(201) 645-3030
Representative Robert Roe <u>Washington, DC Office</u> U.S. House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-3202	(202) 225-5751
<u>District Office</u> U.S. Post Office Building Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003	(201) 645-6299
B. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Officials	
Eugene Dominach On-Scene Coordinator U.S.E.P.A. Region II Edison, New Jersey 08837	(201) 321-6666
Dan Harkay (Alternate) On-Scene Coordinator U.S.E.P.A. Region II Edison, New Jersey 08837	(201) 321-6614
Rich Cahill Community Relations Specialist U.S.E.P.A. Region II 26 Federal Plaza New York, New York 10278	(212) 264-2515

C. State Elected Officials

Governor Thomas Kean (609) 292-6000  
State of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor CN-001  
Trenton, New Jersey 08016

State Senator Donald Payne (201) 645-3213  
920 Broad Street -3214  
Newark, New Jersey 07012

State Senator Wynona Litman (201) 622-0007  
50 Park Place -0090  
Suite 1035  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

State Assemblyman William Brown (201) 926-4494  
1081 Bergen Street  
Newark, New Jersey 08060

State Assemblyman Jack Mattison (201) 705-3595  
1072 Bergen Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07112

D. New Jersey State Officials

Tom Cozzi, State Project Manager (609) 292-7837  
New Jersey Department of Environmental  
Protection  
401 E. State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Molly Joel Coye, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner (609) 292-7837  
State Department of Health  
CN 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

E. City Mayor

Sharpe James, Mayor (201) 733-6400  
City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

F. Interested Party (Local Citizens Group)

Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (201) 589-4668  
95 Fleming Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07105  
Contact: Arnold Cohen

G. Local Newspaper

Newark Star-Ledger  
Star-Ledger Plaza  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
Contact: Len Fisher

(201) 877-4040

H. Radio

WCBS 880-AM  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10019

(212) 975-4321

WINS 1010-AM  
888 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10101

(212) 397-1010

I. Television

WNBC Television  
Channel 4  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112

(212) 664-4444

WABC Television  
Channel 7  
7 Lincoln Square  
New York, New York 10023

(212) 456-7777

WCBS Television  
Channel 2  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10019

(212) 975-4321

APPENDIX B

SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR INFORMATION  
REPOSITORIES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

A. Information Repository

Newark City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07012

(201) 733-8004

Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM M-F

Contact: Police Clerk

Copying facilities are available at this location

B. Public Meeting Location

Newark City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07012

(201) 733-8004

Hours of Operation: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM M-F